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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,256	02/13/2002	Rick D. Pelfrey	9513-0022	8584

7590 06/09/2004

Intellectual Property Group
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EXAMINER

BOCHNA, DAVID

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3679

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/076,256

Applicant(s)

PELFREY ET AL.

Examiner

David E. Bochna

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21, 28-33 and 36-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 20, 21 and 44-46 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-13, 16-19, 28, 29, 36, 37, 40-42 and 48-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 14, 15, 30-33, 38, 39, 43, 47 and 51-54 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 11-13, 16-18 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Bielinski.

In regard to claim 11, Bielinski a pneumatic device comprising a first pneumatic component 11 configured to receive pressurized air, a second pneumatic component 11 configured to receive pressurized air, and a pneumatic coupling configured to couple the first pneumatic component to the second pneumatic component, the pneumatic coupling being configured to move from a first position (fig. 2) with the first and second components fluidly coupled to permit the flow of pressurized air from the first pneumatic component to the second pneumatic component and a second position (where only hooks 21 are connected and handles 26 are in the open position) with the first and second pneumatic components fluidly uncoupled to permit the flow of pressurized air from the first pneumatic component to a location external of the first and second pneumatic components, the second pneumatic component being restrained from moving beyond a predetermined distance from the first pneumatic component when the pneumatic coupling is in the second position (when hooks are coupled).

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In regard to claim 12, the first pneumatic component is a pneumatic line 16 and the second pneumatic component is a pneumatic line 16 in fluid communication with the first pneumatic line when the pneumatic coupling is in the first position.

In regard to claim 13, the pneumatic coupling includes first and second housings 11 and a coupler 26 configured to couple the first and second housings together.

In regard to claim 16 Bielinski discloses a pneumatic device comprising a first pneumatic component 11 configured to receive pressurized air, a second pneumatic component 11 configured to receive pressured air, and

a two-stage pneumatic coupling configured to move between a first coupled position (fig. 2), a second coupled position (where hooks 21 are connected and handles 26 in open position), and a third uncoupled position (fig. 3), the first and second pneumatic components being coupled together and in sealed fluid communication when the two-stage pneumatic coupling is in the first coupled position, the first and second pneumatic components being coupled together and unsealed when the two-stage pneumatic coupling is in the second coupled position, the first and second pneumatic components being uncoupled when the two-stage pneumatic coupling is in the uncoupled position.

In regard to claim 17, wherein the pneumatic coupling includes first and second housings 11 and a coupler 26 configured to couple the first and second housings together, the first housing is configured to receive the first pneumatic component, the second housing is configured to receive the second pneumatic component, the first and second housings are spaced apart and coupled together by the coupler when the two-stage pneumatic coupling is in the second position.

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In regard to claim 18, wherein the coupler is an over-center latch 25 configured to couple the first and second housings together.

In regard to claim 36, Bielinski discloses a method of coupling and uncoupling first and second pneumatic components using a pneumatic coupling, the method comprising the steps of coupling the first pneumatic component to the second pneumatic component using the pneumatic coupling so that the first and second pneumatic components are in sealed fluid communication (fig. 2), unsealing the first pneumatic component from the second pneumatic component by permitting movement of the second pneumatic component relative to the first pneumatic component, restraining movement of the second pneumatic component beyond a predetermined location relative to the first pneumatic component with the pneumatic coupling after the unsealing step (when hooks 21 are coupled together and handle 26 is in the open position), and uncoupling the first pneumatic component from the second pneumatic component so that the movement of the second pneumatic component is no longer restrained by the pneumatic coupling (unhooking hooks 21).

37. (original) The method of claim 36, wherein the coupling, unsealing, and restraining steps are provided by an over-center latch 25.

3. Claims 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Houck.

In regard to claim 19, Houck discloses a pneumatic coupling (fig. 8) configured to couple a plurality of pneumatic lines 45, the pneumatic coupling comprising a housing adapted to receive the plurality of pneumatic lines, the housing including a housing body 12 defining an interior region 46 and a plurality of lips 16 having edges defining a plurality of apertures sized to receive the plurality of pneumatic lines, the plurality of edges defining a minimum width across

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the plurality of apertures, the plurality of lips being integral with the housing body, and a plurality of fittings 38 sized to receive the plurality of pneumatic lines, at least a portion of the plurality of fittings being positioned in the interior region of the housing in a position aligned with a corresponding one of the plurality of apertures, the portions of the plurality of fittings having a maximum width that is greater than the minimum width of the corresponding aperture of the housing.

4. Claims 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kraynick.

In regard to claim 28, Kraynick discloses a pneumatic coupling configured to couple a plurality of pneumatic components, the pneumatic coupling comprising a housing 32 configured to receive a plurality of pneumatic components 50 and fluidly couple first and second pneumatic components of the plurality of pneumatic components together, the housing including a housing body 32 and a plurality of parallel ribs 48 extending substantially across the housing body to strengthen the housing, the plurality of parallel ribs defining a plurality of grooves there between.

In regard to claim 29, the housing body includes a plurality of channel bodies 36 coupled to the plurality of ribs 48, the channel bodies cooperate to define a plurality of channels sized to receive the first and pneumatic components 50.

5. Claims 40-42 and 48-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Doherty.

In regard to claim 40, Doherty discloses a pneumatic device comprising the steps of providing a pneumatic coupling including a housing 12 and a fitting, the housing defining an interior region (interior of 12), an interior aperture (bottom opening of 12) and an exterior aperture (top opening of 12) spaced apart from the interior aperture, and inserting the fitting 14

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through the interior aperture into the interior region of the housing to a position aligned with the exterior aperture.

In regard to claim 41, wherein the inserting step includes positioning a first portion 14 of the fitting adjacent to the exterior aperture and inserting a second portion 25 of the fitting through the exterior aperture to couple with the first portion of the fitting.

In regard to claim 42, wherein a portion of the housing 12 is sandwiched between the first and second portions of the fitting.

In regard to claim 48, further comprising a step of inserting a pneumatic line 38 through the exterior aperture.

In regard to claim 49, wherein the pneumatic coupling defines a flow path, the fitting 14 is inserted through the interior aperture in a first direction along the flow path during the fitting insertion step, the pneumatic line 38 is inserted in a second direction along the flow path during the pneumatic line insertion step, the second direction is opposite the first direction.

In regard to claim 50, wherein at least a portion of the fitting 14 is inserted into the interior region of the housing without passing through the exterior aperture.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 1-10, 20-21, 44-46 are allowed.

7. Claims 14-15, 30-33, 38-39, 43, 47 and 51-54 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 11-13, 16-19, 28-29, 36-37, 40-42 and 48-50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

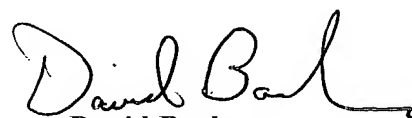
Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Reed, Chapple and Hammond et al. all disclose similar couplings common in the art.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Bochna whose telephone number is (703) 306-9040. The examiner can normally be reached on 8-5:30 Monday-Thursday and every other Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on (703) 308-2686. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-2168.



David Bochna
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679
June 3, 2004